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Statement of Commissioner Kris Mayes
RES Certification
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I'd like to thank Attorney General Goddard for certifying the Commission's Renewable Energy Standard. I'd also like to thank our staff, especially Ray Williamson, for all of his hard work over many years to get us to this point.

This may very well be the most important day in Arizona's energy history.

As of today, Arizona's electric utilities are going to have to begin transitioning from the old world of fossil fuels, to the new world of renewable energy.

Today marks another step toward making Arizona energy independent. And in an era in which America is far too reliant on oil and gas from countries that wish to do us harm, declaring our energy independence has never been more important.

As of today, the amount of electricity in Arizona generated from sources such as the sun, wind, geothermal, and biomass is going to increase dramatically. In fact, we estimate that by the year 2025, Arizona will have produced as much as 2,500 megawatts of renewable energy. That's enough renewable energy to power 500,000 homes.

These rules will result in an explosion in the use of solar energy, and will help thousands of Arizonans to put solar panels on their rooftops.

In fact, the rules will lead to 4,215 new solar rooftops in 2008, 5,500 new solar rooftops in 2009 and 9,135 solar rooftops in 2010. Each year the number of solar rooftops will grow. Increasing the number of solar rooftops helps us minimize the number of power plants and power lines we have to build in Arizona. But most importantly, it helps homeowners minimize their electricity bills. And in an era in which utilities are seeking repeated rate increases, more Arizonans are going to want to lessen their own exposure to those rate increases. Solar power let's them do it by letting Arizonans produce their own power.

The renewable energy standard will also help clean up Arizona's increasingly dirty air. By the year 2025, the RES will likely have prevented the emission of

- 93 billion pounds of carbon dioxide
- 185 million pounds of nitrogen oxides
- 128 million pounds of sulfur dioxide
- 1,269 pounds of mercury

The Renewable Energy Standard will also be a boost in the arm of Arizona's economy by creating high-tech jobs in our State. I have a vision of Arizona in which we become the world's capitol for solar energy panel manufacturing.

And we know that Arizonans overwhelmingly support renewable energy. In the most recent poll taken on this topic, 87 percent of registered voters in Arizona said that we should use more renewable energy.